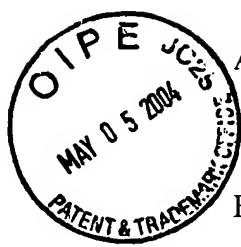


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants : Hiroshi NOMURA et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned  
Appl. No. : 10/771,299 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
Filed : February 5, 2004  
For : LIGHT SHIELDING STRUCTURE OF RETRACTABLE LENS  
BARREL

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,

Applicant calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 6,104,550 to AZEGAMI et al., which issued on August 15, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 5,488,513 to TANAKA, which issued on January 30, 1996; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,589,987 to TANAKA, which issued on December 31, 1996.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. All of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to

return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/769,925 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Cam Mechanism of a Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 3, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,298 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Structure of a Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,419 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Structure of a Zoom Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,402 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/771,300 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Retracting Mechanism of a Retractable Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 5, 2004; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/776,238 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Retracting Mechanism of a Lens Barrel," which was filed on February 12, 2004;

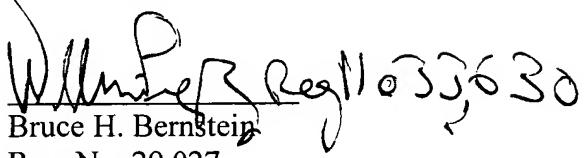
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted applications are enclosed herewith. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the instant application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this

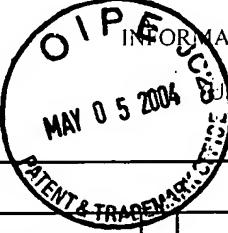
statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p), to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

April 30, 2004  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191

Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office						Atty. Docket No. P24586		Serial No. 10/771,299		
 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use several sheets if necessary)								Applicant Hiroshi NOMURA et al				
								Filing Date February 5, 2004		Group Unknown		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>												
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	NAME			CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	6	1	0	4	5 5 0	08/15/00	AZEGAMI et al					
	5	4	8	8	5 1 3	01/30/96	TANAKA					
	5	5	8	9	9 8 7	12/31/96	TANAKA					
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>												
	DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	COUNTRY			CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES      NO	
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>												
EXAMINER						DATE CONSIDERED						
<small>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>												